

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

§ 931.40

deem necessary, and to determine the compensation and to define the duties of each;

(c) To submit to the Secretary as soon as practicable after the beginning of each fiscal period a budget for such fiscal period, including a report in explanation of the items appearing therein and a recommendation as to the rate of assessment for such period;

(d) To keep minutes, books, and records which will reflect all of the acts and transactions of the committee and which shall be subject to examination by the Secretary;

(e) To prepare periodic statements of the financial operations of the committee and to make copies of each such statement available to growers and handlers for examination at the office of the committee;

(f) To cause its books to be audited by a competent accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such time as the Secretary may request;

(g) To act as intermediary between the Secretary and any grower or handler;

(h) To investigate and assemble data on the growing, handling, and marketing conditions with respect to pears;

(i) To submit to the Secretary such available information as he may request;

(j) To notify producers and handlers of all meetings of the committee to consider recommendations for regulations;

(k) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the committee as is given to its members;

(l) To investigate compliance with the provisions of this part; and

(m) With the approval of the Secretary to redefine the districts into which the production area is divided, and to reapportion the representation of any district on the committee: *Provided*, That any such changes shall reflect, insofar as practicable, shifts in pear production within the districts and the production area.

§ 931.32 Procedure.

(a) Twelve members of the committee, including alternates acting for members, shall constitute a quorum, and any action of the committee shall

require the concurring vote of all except two of the members present.

(b) The committee may provide for simultaneous meetings of groups of its members assembled at two or more designated places: *Provided*, That such meetings shall be subject to the establishment of communication between all such groups and the availability of loud speaker receivers for each group so that each member may participate in the discussions and other actions the same as if the committee were assembled in one place. Any such meeting shall be considered as an assembled meeting.

(c) The committee may vote by telegraph, telephone, or other means of communication, and any votes so cast shall be confirmed promptly in writing: *Provided*, That if an assembled meeting is held, all votes shall be cast in person.

§ 931.33 Expenses.

The members of the committee and alternates when acting as members, shall be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties under this part: *Provided*, That at its discretion the committee may request the attendance of one or more alternates at any or all meetings, notwithstanding the expected or actual presence of the respective members, and may pay expenses as aforesaid.

§ 931.34 Annual report.

The committee shall, as soon as is practicable after the close of each fiscal period, prepare and mail an annual report to the Secretary and make a copy available to each handler and grower who requests a copy of the report. This annual report shall contain at least: (a) A complete review of the regulatory operations during the fiscal period; (b) a review of the effect of such regulatory operations upon the pear industry; and (c) any recommendations for changes in the program.

EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS

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The committee is authorized to incur such expenses as the Secretary finds